

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

Artemio Gutierrez,

Plaintiff,

v.

and

Old Veteran Construction, Inc. and
Sang Lee

Defendants.

Case No. _____

**PLAINTIFF DEMANDS
TRIAL BY JURY**

COMPLAINT

Plaintiff, Artemio Gutierrez (“Plaintiff”), by and through their attorneys, Daniel I. Schlade and James M. Dore, complain against Old Veteran Construction, Inc. (“Defendant” or “Old Veteran”) and Sang Lee (“Defendant” or “Lee”). Old Veteran and Lee may collectively be referred to as “Defendants”. In support of this Complaint, Plaintiff states:

Introduction

1. This action seeks redress for Defendants’ willful violations of the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. § 201 et seq. (“FLSA”), as well as any related state law claims, for Defendants’ failure to pay overtime wages owed.

Parties

2. Plaintiff is a resident of Chicago, Illinois; and he was employed by Old Veteran and Lee.

3. Old Veteran is a business that is located, headquartered, and conducts business in Northbrook, Illinois.

4. Lee is the owner and President Of Old Veteran, and they are in charge of its employees. On information and belief, Lee is a resident of Northbrook, Illinois.

5. Defendants are “an enterprise engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce” under 29 USC § 203(s)(1)(A)(i) and (ii) because they have annual gross volume of sales made or business done of at least \$500,000; and because they are engaged in interstate commerce or in the production of goods for interstate commerce. Additionally, they have more than three employees.

Jurisdiction And Venue

6. The Court possesses subject matter jurisdiction over the FLSA claim(s) pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b) and 28 U.S.C. § 1331 (federal question), and 28 U.S.C. §1337; and supplemental jurisdiction over any related state law claim(s) pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367.

7. Venue is proper in the Northern District of Illinois because all underlying facts and transactions occurred in or about Cook County, Illinois.

Facts Common To All Claims

8. Old Veteran is an “employer” as that term is defined in Section 203 of the FLSA, because it is a privately owned for-profit entity.

9. Lee is an “employer” as that term is defined in Section 203 of the FLSA, because: (1) they were Plaintiff’s head “boss” at Old Veteran; (2) they had the power to hire and fire the employees, including Plaintiff; (3) they supervised and controlled Plaintiff’s work schedules and conditions of employment; (4) they determined the rate and method of payment for employees; and (5) they maintained employment records.

COUNT I: VIOLATION OF THE FLSA

10. Plaintiff reincorporates by reference Paragraphs 1 through 9, as if set forth in full herein for Paragraph 10.

11. Plaintiff began working at Old Veteran in or before January 2022 through May 2022.

12. At all times, Plaintiff held the same position at Old Veteran, they were a construction labor. Plaintiff was an “employee” of Defendants as that term is used in Section 203 of the FLSA because he was employed by Defendants to perform general labor such as lifting heavy objects, and they do not fall into any of the exceptions or exemptions for workers under the FLSA.

13. Although schedules are subject to change, Plaintiff’s general schedule with Defendants required Plaintiff to work on average 48 hours per week.

14. Plaintiff was paid their wages on a(n) daily basis.

15. Plaintiff’s wages were not based on the number of jobs performed or completed, nor was it based on the quality or efficiency of their performance.

16. Plaintiff’s rate of pay was \$150 per day, which calculates to \$20.00 per hour.

17. Throughout the course of Plaintiff’s employment with Defendants, Defendants regularly scheduled and directed Plaintiff to work in excess of forty (40) hours per week.

18. Defendants did not pay Plaintiff not less than one and a half (1.5) times the regular rate at which he was employed during the hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours per week.

19. On information and belief, Defendants have failed to keep proper time records tracking Plaintiffs’ time worked; and Defendants’ failure and refusal to pay Plaintiff overtime wages for hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours per week was a willful violation of the FLSA.

20. Plaintiff is entitled to recover unpaid minimum wages and liquidated damages for up to three (3) years prior to the filing of this lawsuit. On information and belief, this amount includes: (i) \$9,050.00 in unpaid wages; (ii) liquidated damages of \$9,050.00 and (iii) Plaintiff’s attorney’s fees and costs, to be determined. A calculation of Plaintiff’s damages are attached as Exhibit A.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff Artemio Gutierrez respectfully requests that the Court enter a judgment in their favor and against Defendants Old Veteran and Lee jointly and severally, for:

- A. The amount of unpaid wages for all time worked by Plaintiff in individual work weeks, totaling at least \$9,050.00;
- B. An award liquidated damages in an amount equal to at least \$9,050.00;
- C. A declaration that Defendants violated the FLSA;
- D. An award reasonable attorneys' fees and costs; and
- E. Any such additional or alternative relief as this Court deems just and proper.

COUNT II: VIOLATION OF IMWL

21. Plaintiff incorporates by reference Paragraphs 1-20, as if set forth in full herein for this Paragraph 21.

22. This count arises from Defendants' violation of the IMWL, by: failing to pay Plaintiff Illinois mandated overtime wages for all hours worked in excess of 40 hours in each individual work week in violation of 820 ILCS 105/4a(1).

23. Defendant's failure to pay Plaintiff the Illinois-mandated overtime wage rate for all hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours in an individual work week is a violation of the IMWL.

24. Pursuant to 820 ILCS 105/12(a), Plaintiff is entitled to recover unpaid overtime wages for three (3) years prior to the filing of this suit, treble the amount of such underpayments, 5% for each month the underpayments remain unpaid, plus attorney's fees and costs.

25. The amount of unpaid overtime wages owed to Plaintiff is \$9,050.00. .

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff Artemio Gutierrez respectfully requests that the Court enter a judgment in their favor and against Defendants Old Veteran and Lee jointly and severally, for:

A. The amount of wages worked by Plaintiff for which he was not paid overtime wages, totaling at least \$9,050.00;

- B. Award Statutory damages for Plaintiff, including treble damages and 5% monthly interest, pursuant to the formula set forth in 820 ILCS § 105/12(a) and/or 815 ILCS § 205/2;
- C. Declare that Defendants have violated the IMWL;
- D. Award reasonable attorneys' fees and costs as provided by the IMWL; and/or
- E. Grant such additional or alternative relief as this honorable court deems just and proper.

COUNT III: VIOLATION OF THE 820 ILCS 115/1, et. seq

26. Plaintiff reincorporates by reference Paragraphs 1 through 25, as if set forth in full herein for Paragraph 26.

27. Defendant Old Veteran is an “employer” as that term is defined in Section 2 of the IWPCA, because it is an Illinois Limited Liability Company for construction services where wage payments were made directly by the business for work undertaken by employees, including Plaintiff.

28. Defendant Lee is an “employer” as that term is defined in Sections 2 and 13 of the IWPCA, because he is an agent of Old Veteran that knowingly permitted it to violate the provisions of the IWPCA.

29. Plaintiff is an “employee” as that term is used in Section 2 of the IWPCA because he was employed by Defendants as a “construction labor” worker, and he does not fall into any of the exceptions or exemptions for workers under the IWPCA.

30. Defendants violated the IWPCA by failing to pay Plaintiff any wages for his final two weeks of employment with Defendant Old Veteran, which unpaid wages total at least \$8,000.00.

31. In addition, pursuant to Section 14 of the IWPCA, Plaintiff is entitled to recover interest on any unpaid wages at the rate of 5% per month, plus his costs of suit and reasonable attorneys' fees.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff Artemio Gutierrez respectfully request that the Court enter a judgment in favor of Plaintiff, and against Defendants Old Veteran and Lee, jointly and severally, for:

- A. The amount of unpaid wages, totaling \$8,000.00;
- B. An award of 5% interest on all unpaid wages, accruing from the date the unpaid wages were owed through the date of judgment;
- C. A declaration that Defendants violated the IWPCA;
- D. An award reasonable attorneys' fees and costs; and
- E. Any such additional or alternative relief as this Court deems just and proper.

Artemio Gutierrez

s/Daniel I. Schlade
Attorney For Plaintiff

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PLAINTIFF DEMANDS TRIAL BY JURY